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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

Note by the Administrator

1. The proposed third country programme for Afghanistan, covering the period 1984-1986, was not approved by the Governing Council because of the prevailing security situation. At its thirty-first session (1984), the Council concurred with the Administrator's request to provide continued support for ongoing projects in Afghanistan and to consider for approval new projects consistent with the rules, regulations and normal criteria of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). At its thirty-second session (1985), the Council authorized the Administrator, in the absence of a country programme for Afghanistan, for the remaining portion of the third cycle, to provide continued support for ongoing projects in Afghanistan and to consider for approval new projects consistent with the rules, regulations and normal criteria of UNDP. At its thirty-fourth session (1987), the Council agreed to continue this arrangement for the fourth cycle.

2. Since early 1989, UNDP has been providing assistance to Afghanistan within the overall framework of the Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan. UNDP assistance is funded from the Emergency Trust Fund for Afghanistan and the indicative planning figure (IPF) for Afghanistan, has supported rehabilitation activities mainly in the areas of agriculture, veterinary services, irrigation systems, feeder roads, rural housing, seed production, water supply and sanitation.

3. As a result of continuing civil strife in Afghanistan, it is still not feasible to formulate a country programme. The Administrator, therefore, seeks the authorization of the Governing Council to continue to appraise and approve projects in the fifth cycle on a project-by-project basis, consistent with the rules, regulations and normal criteria of UNDP and within the limits of the annual pro rata distribution of the IFP for Afghanistan in the fifth programming cycle. When conditions permit, the preparation of the third country programme will be initiated.